

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-16, without prejudice, and insert in lieu thereof new claims 17-30 as follows:

Claims 1-16 (canceled).

17. (new): An apparatus for blocking and releasing a door lock of an electrical appliance, comprising:

- a blocking and release unit (12) having a blocking state for blocking a locked door lock (2) of an electrical appliance and a release state for enabling unlocking of the door lock (2) and comprising an actuator (16), which effects, upon activation, a crossover from the release state to the blocking state if the blocking and release unit (12) is in the release state and crossover from the blocking state to the release state if the blocking and release unit (12) is in the blocking state, and

- an emergency release unit (14) having an idle state and a working state and comprising an actuator (50), which maintains, in response to or in view of the crossover of the blocking and release unit (12) into the blocking state, the emergency release unit (14) in the idle state and allows, in an abnormal operating state of the electrical appliance, a crossover of the emergency release unit (14) from the working state into the idle state, wherein the emergency release unit (14) in the event of the crossover from the working state into the idle state brings the blocking and release unit (12) into the release state.

18. (new): Apparatus according to claim 17, characterized in that:

the actuator (50) of the emergency release unit (14) is adapted for effecting a crossover from the idle state into the working state.

19. (new): Apparatus according to claim 17, characterized in that:

the emergency release unit (14) comprises a force-generating element (46) for effecting the crossover from the working state into the idle state.

20. (new): An apparatus for blocking and releasing a door lock of an electrical appliance, comprising:

- a blocking and release unit (12) having a blocking state for blocking a locked door lock (2) of an electrical appliance and a release state for enabling unlocking of the door lock (2) and comprising an actuator (16), which effects, upon activation, a crossover from the release state to the blocking state if the blocking and release unit (12) is in the release state and crossover from the blocking state to the release state if the blocking and release unit (12) is in the blocking state, and

- an emergency release unit (14) having an idle state and a working state and comprising a force-generating element (50), which maintains, in response to or in view of the crossover of the blocking and release unit (12) into the blocking state, the emergency release unit (14) in the idle state and an actuator (50), which effects, in an abnormal operating state of the electrical appliance, a crossover of the emergency release unit (14) from the working state into the idle state, wherein the emergency release unit (14) in the event of the crossover from the working state into the idle state brings the blocking and release unit (12) into the release state.

21. (new): Apparatus according to claim 20, characterized in that:

the emergency release unit (14) comprises an energy supply device for the actuator (50) of emergency release unit (14), which device is designed to supply energy to the actuator (50) of emergency release unit (14) for activating the latter in the event of abnormal operation of the electrical appliance.

22. (new): Apparatus according to claim 19 or 20, characterized in that:
the force-generating element (46) is a spring.

23. (new): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, characterized in that:
the blocking and release unit (12) assumes the blocking state by means of a
working connection to the door lock (2) in response to locking of the latter.

24. (new): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, characterized in that:
the blocking and release unit (12) in a locked state of the door lock (2) assumes
the blocking state in a controlled manner.

25. (new): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, characterized in that:
the blocking and release unit (12) assumes the release state in an operating state of
the electrical appliance, for which an unlocking of the door lock (2) is desirable and/or
permissible.

26. (new): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, characterized in that:
the emergency release unit (14) assumes the working state by means of a working
connection to the blocking and release unit (12) in response to the crossover of the latter
into the blocking state.

27. (new): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, characterized in that:
the emergency release unit (14) assumes the working state in a controlled manner
when the blocking and release unit (12) is situated in the blocking state or before the
blocking and release unit (12) assumes the blocking state.

28. (new): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, characterized in that:

during normal operation of the electrical appliance the emergency release unit
(14) assumes the idle state in response to the crossover of the blocking and release unit
(12) from the blocking state into the release state.

29. (new): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, characterized in that:
the actuator (50) of emergency release unit (14) is a heat-sensitive element, a
thermoelement or a wax motor.

30. (new): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, characterized by:
a release device for the emergency release unit (14), which device in dependence
upon parameters characterizing an abnormal operating state of the electrical appliance
allows a crossover of the emergency release unit (14) into an idle state.
